CLAIMS AMENDMENTS

1 (previously presented). A rail comprising an elongate member having an upwardly facing channel defined by an inside wall, a bottom, and an outside wall, with the inside and outside walls of substantially the same height such that the upwardly facing channel has a U-shape; and a sidewardly facing channel defined by an inside, downwardly projecting securing tab, a top, an outside wall, a bottom, and an upwardly projecting securing tab such that the sidewardly facing channel has a C- or G-shape; wherein a vertical member embraces both the outside wall of the upwardly facing channel and outside wall of the sidewardly facing channel, and the upwardly facing channel and the sidewardly facing channel are on the same side of the vertical member.

2 (canceled).

3 (previously presented). The rail of claim 1, wherein the upwardly facing channel is positioned directly above the sidewardly facing channel.

4 (original). The rail of claim 3, wherein the sidewardly facing channel also has a downwardly projecting tab.

5-7 (canceled).

8 (previously presented). The rail of claim 1, wherein at least one of the following features is present:

the upwardly facing channel is provided with a water guidance subsystem;

the vertical member is provided with holes.

9 (previously presented). In combination, the rail of claim 1, which is mounted to a wall of a vehicle cargo bed area.

10 (previously presented). In combination, the rail of claim 3, which is mounted to a wall of a vehicle cargo bed area.

11 (previously presented). In combination, the rail of claim 4, which is mounted to a wall of a vehicle cargo bed area.

12 (previously presented). In combination, the rail of claim 8, which is mounted to a wall of a vehicle cargo bed area.

13 (previously presented). A rail system comprising at least two rails, each including an elongate member having an upwardly facing channel defined by an inside wall, a bottom, and an outside wall, with the inside and outside walls of substantially the same height such that the upwardly facing channel has a U-shape; and a sidewardly facing channel defined by an inside, downwardly projecting securing tab, a top, an outside wall, a bottom, and an upwardly projecting securing tab such that the sidewardly facing channel has a C- or G-shape; wherein a vertical member embraces both the outside wall of the upwardly facing channel and outside wall of the sidewardly facing channel, and the upwardly facing channel and the sidewardly facing channel are on the same side of the vertical member -- with the at least two rails mounted in relationship to one another so as to accommodate employment of the upwardly and sidewardly facing channels.

14 (previously presented). The rail system of claim 13, wherein each upwardly facing channel is mounted to face upwards; and each sidewardly facing channel is mounted to generally face each other sidewardly facing channel of the at least two rails by having the at least two rails mounted in a substantially orthogonal and/or substantially parallel relationship.

15 (previously presented). The rail system of claim 14, wherein the upwardly facing channel is positioned directly above the sidewardly facing channel of each of the at least two rails.

16 (previously presented). The rail system of claim 15, wherein each sidewardly facing channel also has a downwardly projecting tab.

17 (previously presented). In combination, the rail system of claim 13, which is mounted to walls of a vehicle cargo bed area.

18 (previously presented). In combination, the rail system of claim 14, which is mounted to walls of a vehicle cargo bed area.

19 (previously presented). In combination, the rail system of claim 15, which is mounted to walls of a vehicle cargo bed area.

20 (previously presented). In combination, the rail system of claim 16, which is mounted to walls of a vehicle cargo bed area.

21 (currently amended). The ~~rail system~~ combination of claim 18, wherein two of the at least two rails are connected in the substantially orthogonal relationship by a corner connector having male members about which parts of the sidewardly facing channel are slid.

22 (currently amended). A rail comprising an elongate member ~~having two channels:~~ having:

a first rail channel that is an upwardly facing channel,

which is provided with ~~at least one of~~ the ~~following~~

~~two subsystems:~~ following:

a water guidance subsystem; and

a water exit ~~subsystem;~~ subsystem, which includes tubing that can be employed to direct water outside a vehicle cargo bed area on a wall of which the rail can be mounted; and

a second rail channel that is a sidewardly facing channel.

23 (currently amended). The rail of claim 21, wherein:

the water guidance subsystem includes a connector insert that can connect the upwardly facing channel of the rail with another upwardly facing channel of a second rail embracing a second elongate member having the other upwardly facing ~~channel; and~~ channel.

~~the water exit subsystem includes tubing that can be employed to direct water outside a vehicle cargo bed area on a wall of which the rail can be mounted.~~

24 (previously presented). In combination, the rail and second rail of claim 23, which are mounted to walls of the vehicle cargo bed area.